

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19, 21-24, 27, 28, and 30 are pending; Claims 20, 25, 26, 29, and 31 are cancelled; and Claims 1 and 16 are amended. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 1 recites a robot system that includes a bladder which is provided in at least one of the at least two segments, the joints, the drive units, and the controller, and which is filled with a fluid, the fluid being of lower specific gravity than the outside environment. Buoyant force may be obtained by filling the bladder with the fluid having a lower specific gravity than an outside environment.<sup>1</sup> As a result, there is provided a robot system having superior mobility and which is able to pass through a narrow area. Additionally, the robot system may fix its body at a specific location or may hold an object having an indefinite shape. The volume of the robot system during transport may also be reduced through the limitations recited in Claims 1 and 16.<sup>2</sup>

Monroe (U.S. Pat. No. 5,351,602) relates to a jointed assembly actuated by fluid pressure. In Monroe, a bladder 30 is filled with hydraulic fluid or a gas via duct 36 leading from within the bladder through terminus 16.<sup>3</sup> However, Monroe does not in any way address a specific gravity of the fluid to be filled in the bladder. More specifically, Monroe does not disclose or suggest that the fluid has a lower specific gravity than an outside environment. Accordingly, absent such disclosure, Monroe cannot obtain the advantages of the limitations recited in Claims 1 and 16. Namely, Monroe is not capable of obtaining the

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<sup>1</sup> Specification, page 11.

<sup>2</sup> Specification, page 13.

<sup>3</sup> Monroe, col. 2, lines 20-22.

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same type of buoyancy as obtained by the features of Claims 1 and 16. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-19, 21-24, 27, 28, and 30 patentably distinguish over Monroe.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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